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SECRET WARS

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SECRET WARS

X-MEN
BATTLEWORLD
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED.
THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS
BATTLEWORLD!
A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!
EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!
FIVE YEARS AGO, THE INFERNO CONSUMED NEW YORK CITY. THE YOUNG MUTANT ILLYANA RASPUTIN, INFECTED BY ITS DARK ENERGIES, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE DARKCHILD AND STOLE CONTROL OF ITS DEMON HORDES FOR HERSELF. NEEDING TO CONTAIN THE INFERNO, THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN WAS QUARANTINED AND SEALED OFF. BUT ONCE EVERY YEAR, PIOTR RASPUTIN, THE MUTANT KNOWN AS COLOSSUS, LEADS A BAND OF HIS FELLOW X-MEN INTO THE HELLISH LANDSCAPE IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESCUE HIS SISTER AND PURIFY HER OF HER DEMONIC INFESTATION. EVERY YEAR HE HAS FAILED. AND EACH FAILURE HAS TURNED MORE OF HIS FRIENDS AGAINST HIS CRUSADE. WITH FEW LEFT WILLING TO MARCH ON THE GATES OF THE INFERNO BY HIS SIDE, PIOTR HAS FOUND HIMSELF FAR OVERMATCHED IN WHAT MAY BE HIS FINAL ATTEMPT TO SAVE HIS SISTER. WITH HIS TEAM OVERRUN AND HIS FRIENDS MISSING OR CAPTURED, ALL SEEMED LOST. BUT AS COLOSSUS WAS CONSUMED BY THE TIDE OF DEMONS, HE WAS SUDDENLY SAVED BY AN UNLIKELY ALLY—THE FORMER RULER OF THE INFERNO, THE GOBLIN QUEEN HERSELF, MADELYNE PRYOR.
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INFERNO

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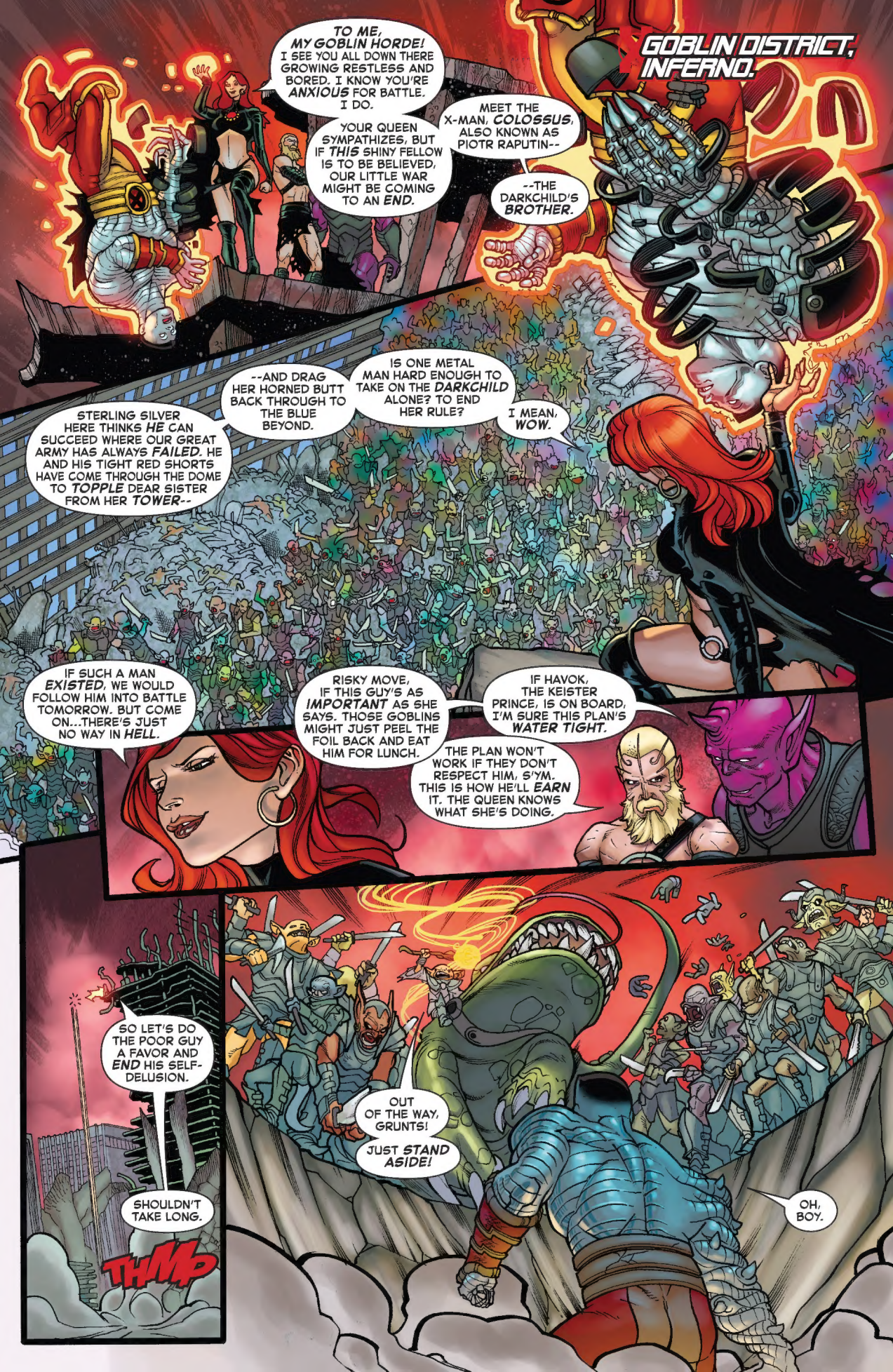
UGH. WHAT A MESS...
...MASTER WANTS FRESH MEAT. OF COURSE HE DOES.
NO ROT. NO STINK. NO HELLFIRE CHAR.
...WOULD'VE BET MY WHOLE SKIN.
GLAD I DIDN'T.
CUZ HERE YOU LIE, FRESH FRESHIE. GUT CUT. BLEEDING OUT.
BUT SOMEHOW--
IMPOSSIBLE, I TELL HIM. CAN'T BE DONE.
NOTHING UP TOP BUT OLD DIRTY DEMONS...
--STILL TICK TICK TICKING, BOOM BOOM.
GAH!
X THE STREETS OF INFERNO
OH, QUIT THAT BELLYACHING.
THMP
DIDN'T YOU JUST HEAR WHAT I SAID?
YOU'RE NOT DEAD. YET.

SO LONG AS WE GET US A MOVE ON...
...MASTER WILL STITCH YOU RIGHT UP, FRESHIE. SEND THAT DEATH PACKING.
THOUGH, TRUTH BE TOLD, DEATH CAN HAVE A RIGHT SOFT TOUCH WHEN COMPARED TO WHAT MASTER--
WUMP
--HEH. WELL, LISTEN TO ME TELLING TALES.
YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH.
WON'T YA?
I GUESS I'M OFFICIALLY DONE ARGUING, MASTER.
FRESH MEAT YOU WANTED.
FRESH MEAT THERE WAS.
LYING RIGHT IN THE STREET.


GOBLIN DISTRICT, INFERNO.
TO ME, MY GOBLIN HORDE! I SEE YOU ALL DOWN THERE GROWING RESTLESS AND BORED. I KNOW YOU'RE ANXIOUS FOR BATTLE. I DO.
YOUR QUEEN SYMPATHIZES, BUT IF THIS SHINY FELLOW IS TO BE BELIEVED, OUR LITTLE WAR MIGHT BE COMING TO AN END.
MEET THE X-MAN, COLOSSUS, ALSO KNOWN AS PIOTR RAPUTIN--
--THE DARKCHILD'S BROTHER.
STERLING SILVER HERE THINKS HE CAN SUCCEED WHERE OUR GREAT ARMY HAS ALWAYS FAILED. HE AND HIS TIGHT RED SHORTS HAVE COME THROUGH THE DOME TO TOPPLE DEAR SISTER FROM HER TOWER--
--AND DRAG HER HORNED BUTT BACK THROUGH TO THE BLUE BEYOND.
IS ONE METAL MAN HARD ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THE DARKCHILD ALONE? TO END HER RULE?
I MEAN, WOW.
IF SUCH A MAN EXISTED, WE WOULD FOLLOW HIM INTO BATTLE TOMORROW. BUT COME ON...THERE'S JUST NO WAY IN HELL.
RISKY MOVE, IF THIS GUY'S AS IMPORTANT AS SHE SAYS. THOSE GOBLINS MIGHT JUST PEEL THE FOIL BACK AND EAT HIM FOR LUNCH.
IF HAVOK, THE KEISTER PRINCE, IS ON BOARD, I'M SURE THIS PLAN'S WATER TIGHT.
THE PLAN WON'T WORK IF THEY DON'T RESPECT HIM, S'YM. THIS IS HOW HE'LL EARN IT. THE QUEEN KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING.
SO LET'S DO THE POOR GUY A FAVOR AND END HIS SELF-DELUSION.
SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.
THUMP
OUT OF THE WAY, GRUNTS!
JUST STAND ASIDE!
OH, BOY.

SPARKY AND THE WIZARD-- *WE'VE* GOT THIS!

MY TEAM IS SCATTERED. OUR WINDOW IS CLOSING.

SIX OF MY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ALREADY GONE, AND WE ARE NO CLOSER TO *SAVING* ILLYANA.

I HAVE NO TIME FOR CRAZY MADDIE PRYOR'S GOBLIN QUEEN NONSENSE.

MUST END THIS QUICKLY AND GET BA--

WAGH!

THWANG

SMADASH

LOOK AT THE BIG METAL MAN!

HE MOVES LIKE MOLASSES!

NOT AGAIN, GOBLIN.

NOT AGAIN.

KRUNK

SPARKY!

SMAK

THIS.

SMAK

ENDS.

SMAK

NOW?

AARRGHHH!

KRAAK
A HARD MAN, *INDEED*. ALMOST HAD US THUMPED, WHICH IS NO SMALL THING.
BUT SEE, CONTROLLING DEMONS IS KIND OF MY DEAL, AND THAT RIGHT *ARM* OF YOURS, COLOSSUS, WELL...
...SHE'S GOT A LITTLE *HELL* IN HER.
SPARKY! C'MERE GIRL!
PUT THIS MUTANT FOOL OUT OF HIS *MISERY*.
GRAGH!

GRAAWLL
NNNNG!
I HATE TO AGREE WITH S'YM, MY QUEEN, BUT THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
NO, ALEX. IT LOOKS *PERFECT.*
GOBLIN *LOYALTY* IS NO SIMPLE THING. EQUAL PARTS *FEAR* AND *RESPECT.* THEY NEED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THIS MAN'S BACK IS AGAINST A WALL.
THEY NEED TO WATCH HIM CLAW HIS WAY BACK FROM THE BRINK.
IF WE WANT HIM TO *LEAD* THEM IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST THE DARKCHILD, FIRST HE HAS TO *SCARE* THEM.
NOW SHUT YOUR PRETTY MOUTH...
...AND WATCH MOMMA WORK.
ILLYANA'S *SOULSWORD?*
WHAT GAME IS MADDIE PLAYING?
GAH!
WHAT *IS* THIS?!
THE DEMON ARM WANTS THE SWORD. *NEEDS* IT.
I CANNOT *RESIST.*
BUT WHY?

SWOOSH
OH, MY...
...THE POWER!
COME AT ME, WIZARD.
GAH! MOVE!
KLANG
KLAANG
KLLNG
SEE THERE?
FEAR AND RESPECT. QUITE A COMBO.

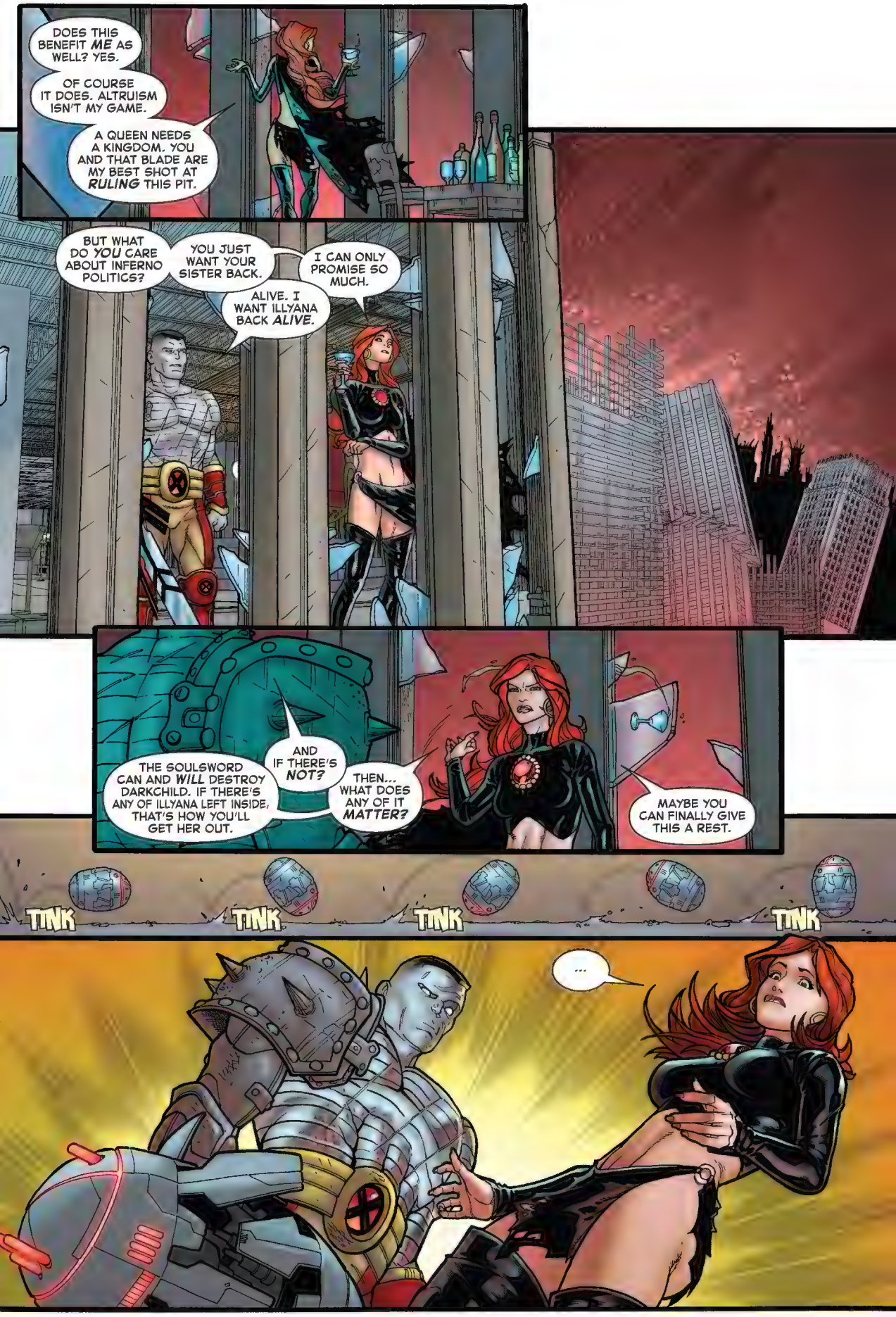
THE GOBLIN QUEEN'S PRISON. MEANWHILE...
HI.
HI...
YOU'RE PRETTY.
HEH. THANKS.
THAT LOOKS LIKE A HAMMER F-CLASS PLASMA CANNON. QUITE A GUN.
I LIKE GUNS.
ME, TOO. NAME'S DOMINO.
I'VE HEARD YOU CAN RIG THE PLASMA EMITTER TO CYCLE THE CHARGE AND INCREASE YOUR OUTPUT BY, LIKE...
240 PERCENT?
KA-ZAAT
I HEARD THE SAME THING.
EVIDENTLY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. THAT'S JUST A GOBLIN. HE'LL RESPAWN SOMETIME TOMORROW.

I ACTUALLY HAVE A G-CLASS ONE BACK IN MY ROOM. SUPPOSED TO BE *WAY* MORE POWERFUL--
--BUT THE STUPID THING KEEPS *OVERHEATING*. WON'T EVEN SHOOT.
THAT COULD BE A LOOSE CENTRAL COIL.
YOU SHOULD TRY RESPOOLING. IT'S TRICKY...
...BUT I COULD *SHOW* YOU.
UMMMM...
...YEAH. OKAY.
THWK
COME WITH ME...
...BUT YOU CAN'T TELL MY *MOM*.
I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.
THE GOBLIN QUEEN *HATES* IT WHEN I PLAY WITH THE PRISONERS.

THE DARKCHILD'S BASE OF OPERATIONS.
GAAAHHH!
YOU DON'T BREAK EASILY, NIGHTCRAWLER. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
BUT BREAKING YOU IS STEP ONE OF MY BIG BAD PLOT... SO LET'S KEEP TRYING.
YOU SELL ME SHORT, LITTLE ILLYANA. A WILL TEMPERED BY FAITH WILL NOT BREAK AT ALL.
THIS GUY--FATHER'S A DEMON. MOTHER'S A SHAPE-SHIFTING SUPER VILLAIN. HOW DID THOSE TWO COOK UP A BOUNCING BABY X-MAN OF THE CLOTH?
I AM ALSO A CHILD OF DOOM, N'ASTIRH.
MNNCH MNNCH MNNCHH
I HAVE A SOUL ALL MY OWN.
AS DO YOU, ILLYANA. A SOUL FOR WHICH YOUR BROTHER FIGHTS, EVEN STILL.
MY BROTHER IS A FOOL. BUT...
...YOU HAVE GIVEN ME AN IDEA.
PERHAPS YOUR PIOUS CANDY SHELL WILL NOT MELT IN MY HAND.
BUT THIS SOUL YOU KEEP GOING ON ABOUT--

--WHAT HAPPENS WHEN--
--I YANK IT OUT?
HURRK!
SHUNK
OOF.
COLD-BLOODED.
YES, N'ASTIRH.
NOW WE'RE COOKING WITH GAS.
AGHHH!

MADELYNE, WHERE DID YOU GET ILLYANA'S SWORD?
YOUR SISTER GETS COCKY IN BATTLE. DISTRACTED EVEN.
SHE LEFT IT BURIED IN ONE OF MY BEEFIER GOBLINS A BIT LONGER THAN SHE SHOULD'VE. WE SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY.
BUT WHY WOULD SHE GIVE IT TO ME?
I DIDN'T. YOU TOOK IT.
STOP READING MY MIND, MADDIE.
UM... NO.
NOT JUST ANYONE CAN WIELD THE SOUL SWORD. ESPECIALLY DOWN IN THE PIT. ALEX AND I COULDN'T BUDGE IT. EVERY GOBLIN WHO EVEN CAME CLOSE BURST INTO FLAME.
I HAD A HUNCH THE RASPUTIN BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH THAT SWEET NEW BAD-BOY ARM OF YOURS...MIGHT MAKE YOU OUR ARTHUR.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WILL HELP YOU?
HELP ME?
I'M OFFERING TO HELP YOU.
I'VE SEEN THIS YEAR'S RESCUE TEAM. PALTRY WOULD BE A COMPLIMENT. MEANWHILE, THE DARKCHILD CONTROLS TEN TIMES THE DEMONS YOU FACED LAST YEAR.
ONLY A FOOL INVADES RUSSIA IN WINTER, PETER. WITHOUT MY GOBLINS YOU WON'T MAKE IT INSIDE THE DOOR.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME.
THE GOBLIN QUEEN WANTS TO RULE IN ILLYANA'S PLACE.
WHY EVEN ATTEMPT TO HIDE HER TRUE--
I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING, COLOSSUS.
I SAID STAY OUT OF MY HEAD.
OH, CALM DOWN.
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT ME LISTENING YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT IT IN RUSSIAN.


DOES THIS BENEFIT *ME* AS WELL? YES.
OF COURSE IT DOES. ALTRUISM ISN'T MY GAME.
A QUEEN NEEDS A KINGDOM. YOU AND THAT BLADE ARE MY BEST SHOT AT *RULING* THIS PIT.
BUT WHAT DO *YOU* CARE ABOUT INFERNO POLITICS?
YOU JUST WANT YOUR SISTER BACK.
I CAN ONLY PROMISE SO MUCH.
ALIVE. I WANT ILLYANA BACK *ALIVE*.
THE SOULSWORD CAN AND *WILL* DESTROY DARKCHILD. IF THERE'S ANY OF ILLYANA LEFT INSIDE, THAT'S HOW YOU'LL GET HER OUT.
AND IF THERE'S *NOT?*
THEN... WHAT DOES ANY OF IT *MATTER?*
MAYBE YOU CAN FINALLY GIVE THIS A REST.
TINK
TINK
TINK
TINK
...

BOOM!
WHAT IN HELL?!
IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING.
STAND DOWN, QUEENIE, OR I'M COMING IN HOT!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU--

NOT ON YOUR BEST DAY, SPOT.
THAT'S MY MOM!
I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS, DOMINO!
THWAK
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!
NEENA!
NO!
PTOOM
SWOOSH
UM...

WHO IS THIS?
THAT IS MY SON.
SAY HELLO, NATHAN.
MY NAME'S CABLE!
SIGH. OF...
...COURSE IT IS, SWEETHEART.
I FEEL LIKE I MISSED SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
I'VE JUST OFFERED YOUR MAN HERE AN ALLIANCE.
MY GOBLIN HORDE AND I WILL GET YOU IN THE THRONE ROOM.
DEFEAT THE DARKCHILD WITH HER OWN SOULSWORD AND EVERYBODY WINS.
YOU TAKE YOUR SISTER HOME.
I TAKE HER THRONE.

GAH!
664
COME ON. COME ON. COME ON.
DING.
M'LADY IS NOT GONNA LIKE THIS.
NOPE.
NOT ONE LITTLE BIT.
WHAT IS IT, BAGZEE?
IT'S YOUR BROTHER, M'LADY. HE'S JOINED UP WITH THE GOBLIN QUEEN AND WIELDS YOUR SWORD.

"THEY'VE GOT US IN FULL RETREAT."
THAT IS RIGHT, DEMON SCUM.
SHUNK
THE TIDE, IT HAS TURNED!
WELL, LOOK AT THAT.
BROTHER BEAR MAKING FRIENDS.
HEH.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO, M'LADY? WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THAT.
CHOMP
THAT'S OKAY, BAGZEE.

eAF
YOU WON'T HAVE TO.
FOOM
NEXT: A QUEEN WORTHY OF THE NAME...

MINUTEMEN
Blutman